

U.S. CRUISER SAN DIEGO SUNK OFF NEW YORK; YANKS HACK HUN LINES

17,000 HUNS TAKEN, 250 CANNON; YANKS PROGRESS FARTHER

Paris, July 19.—More than 17,000 prisoners have been taken by the French and Americans, the war office announced tonight.

Among the prisoners are two German colonels with their staffs.

The Franco-American troops have captured 250 cannon, including a battery of 210 caliber guns.

With the Americans at the Marne, July 19.—The following official statement was issued at American headquarters tonight:

"We have advanced two miles beyond Vaux-Castillo, Villers-Helong, and Noroy-sur-Ourcq.

"We have captured the plateau north of Monnes (Bonne) and the heights north of Gourchamps, and have passed Torcy.

"The enemy is reacting with important reserves.

"We have maintained the plateau southwest of Soissons and Chaudun."

DRIVE CONTINUES SUCCESSFUL IN SPITE OF ENEMY RESERVES

Paris, July 19.—In spite of desperate German resistance and the constant throwing in by Ludendorff of fresh reserves, the Franco-American drive between the Aisne and the Marne continues successfully. A new counter-offensive also has set in between the Marne and Rheims, French, Americans and Italians fighting shoulder to shoulder and pressing the Germans back steadily. Rheims seems definitely saved from the German clutch. Seventeen thousand prisoners had been taken when the war office issued its night communique. Steady streams of more captives are coming in.

Even more indicative of the allies' success is the number of guns taken: 250. It shows the extent of the surprise and, more than that, shows the terrific toll in dead the Germans must have paid. In the savage fighting that has been raging in the 28-mile front between the two rivers since yesterday the attackers have had little time for making prisoners.

TERRIBLE SLAUGHTER OF FOE.

Ordinarily at least ten times the number of prisoners goes with such a staggering total of captured guns. Yesterday and today saw, therefore, a process of German killing such as has not occurred since Verdun.

Soissons, in flames and surrounded from three sides, is virtually in Franco-American hands tonight. They can enter it any time they want.

Prisoners 15,000.

Paris, July 19.—The number of prisoners taken up to early this evening is now reported on good authority to approach the 15,000 mark.

There is a strong impression here that Soissons has fallen, though this is not yet officially confirmed. Late dispatches indicate, however, that the Germans were getting out of the burning city in the afternoon.

"The Germans are everywhere on the defensive," the allied high command announced officially late today. Formerly named the California, her keel was laid in 1902. She was of 12,500 tons displacement. Her engine developed 20,638 horsepower, giving her a speed of 22.30 knots per hour.

the whole Soissons-Chateau-Thierry-Rheims triangle will be doomed.

Began New Counter Blow.

Not content with pushing their Aisne-Marne drive with the utmost vigor and continued success, the French and Americans, with the aid of Italian units, began early today a new counter-offensive by assailing the Germans between the Marne and Rheims.

At the same time the French hit back south of the Marne, re-taking Mont Volay, and throwing the Germans out of the outskirts of Oeuilly. Thus the German armies in the huge triangle are being violently attacked from three sides.

The chief object of the Franco-American Aisne-Marne drive, namely the relief of Rheims, appears accomplished. Where they threatened to cut off the last remaining lines of communication with the Cathedral City they have been pressed back. They had to yield ground in

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HEINE CROPS FAIL; ALLIES HAVE PLENTY

Nature Makes Starvation
Drive Against Germany
and Austria.

Nature is conducting a "starvation drive" against Germany and Austria. While the crops of America and her allies promise this year to break all records for size, those of Germany and her allies will be smaller than at anytime since the war began.

Widespread drought enveloped the central empire during April, May and June, stopped the development of all the vegetables and roots so urgently needed by the Teutons.

Potatoes Are Damaged. The frost destroyed one-third of the potato crop, especially in the northern part of the country. Peas and beans also were seriously damaged. At the same time, the heat and drought increased the ravages of all kinds of pestiferous insects, so the crop of apples and pears will be insignificant. It also delayed the wheat crop and with the failure of Rumania and the Ukraine to deliver the expected wheat, Germany is in a bad way.

On the other hand, America's wheat crop will exceed 800,000,000 bushels, if it doesn't reach the billion-bushel mark predicted earlier in the season. The corn crop forecast will be 3,150,000,000 bushels breaking all records. The oat crop also will be a bumper one.

Canadian crop estimates differ, owing to the fact that the wheat country is so vast and enjoys varying weather, but indications are for a record crop for our northern ally also.

English crop experts report favorably on the prospects for this year, and continued success, the invaded portions of France, with an average yield in Holland and Spain, are predicted.

Italy, it is anticipated, will produce 14,000,000 bushels of wheat as against 14,000,000 bushels last year. An abundance of wheat is promised from India, Australia and Argentina. The question with those countries is one of tonnage and not of the size of the crop.

It doesn't look, therefore, as if the allied people will starve this year. The restrictions on the use of flour probably will be modified to a great degree by the food administration.

But the Huns will tighten their belts another notch and wait hungrily for the "victorious peace" their rulers have promised them.

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American Naval Losses In War Summarized

The naval losses of the United States since America entered the war have been as follows:

Jacob Jones, destroyer, torpedoed December 6, 1917.
Alcedo, converted yacht used as a patrol vessel, sunk November 5, 1917.

Chauncey, destroyer, sunk in collision with British transport.
Cassin, destroyer, torpedoed, but reached port under her own steam, was repaired and returned to service.

San Diego, armored cruiser, sunk July 19, 1918.

Transport and supply ship losses have been as follows:
Antilles, transport, sunk returning from France.
Finland, transport, torpedoed, but made port under her own steam.

President Lincoln, transport, torpedoed returning from France.
Covington, transport, torpedoed returning from France.
Westover, supply ship, torpedoed returning from France.

HUNS BATTERED WHILE THEY STILL STAGGER

Enemy, Trying to Recover From Initial
Franco-American Thrust, Struck With
New Blows on 28-Mile Front.

With the Americans at the Marne, July 19.—The Franco-American typhoon that blew the life out of the Kaiser's storm of peace rages on with impetuous fury. "Fritz" has not yet recovered from the initial wallop, and while he is still rubbing his eyes, as it were, wondering whence this rude awakening came, the Yanks and Poilus keep pummeling and battering and smashing away at him on the whole 28-mile front between the Aisne and Marne.

Not only that, but a new storm has taken the shaky Teuton machine from the rear, between the Marne and Rheims, where up to yesterday it was ploughing forward with measurable success against the last artery feeding the life blood of the Cathedral City's defense. On that side the French and Americans were exceedingly hard pressed when Foch gave the signal for the great flanking thrust.

Rheims Tension Relieved. Yesterday's smashing advance in this drive has given new cheer and new strength to the defenders of Rheims, and now the bewildered German is between two fires, with a third flaring up today on the South, below the Marne. The tactics Foch is applying now are designed to bite off the whole great German wedge south of the Aisne, and to deprive the invader of every bit of ground he gained in that ambitious drive to the Marne in May. Soissons is being pushed to the limit of his offensive that was superseded by Foch's counter drive. The chief subject of talk and marvel along this front still is the revolutionary manner in which Foch shattered his attack—without artillery preparation. Only once before this had been attempted on such a scale, and that time it resulted in disaster. It was when Nivelle launched his great gunless Champagne drive that cost such terrible sacrifice to France, and the loss of his command to him. Since then the military world had fostered the conviction that "it can't be done." Foch has shattered it overnight; he has shown that it can be done. True, the strength of artillery preparation for great offensives had been gradually reduced. Prior to Foch's Cambrai attack never a major-scale drive had been launched without at least a full week's sacrifice, concentrated gun-drumming. Then Foch reduced it to a scarce four hours bombardment. The Germans were quick to snap up the idea and have used it constantly since. It was one

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VICTORIES NEWLY GAINED HAVE TURNED WAR'S TIDE

American troops, side by side with the French, continue to sweep forward to new victories.

There is no longer question that the tide of the war has turned. Soissons is believed by American and entente military experts to have fallen.

Approximately 30,000 prisoners have been taken, the unofficial reports to the entente embassies indicate.

Press reports from Paris to the effect that the Germans are now everywhere on the defensive are accepted literally in military circles. Many experts are prepared to believe that yesterday's successful attack by the British on Villers-Bretonneux, reported in the news dispatches, but not yet officially confirmed, presages a large British offensive soon to start.

Statement of Baker.

Secretary Baker issued the following statement yesterday afternoon: "The attention of the world is, of course, focused on the tremendous counter blow being delivered by Gen. Foch. Gradual extension of these operations to the east is indicated in the press dispatches, but as yet is not officially confirmed. The gain on the front of the original counter thrust has been deepened, narrowing the salient, and making the position of its German occupants less and less tenable."

"We have no report of the capture of Soissons, but the battle has been raging at that part of the front, and the fall of Soissons seemed to be indicated by the progress made at the time of the latest official dispatches. The significance of this movement lies in the fact that the supreme commander evidently feels that the allied forces are now sufficiently strong to justify vigorous action."

New York and New England National Guardsmen—members of the Rainbow and the Twenty-sixth divisions—have been in the thick of it. General March, chief of staff of the American army, so informed the members of the House Military Affairs Committee yesterday. He vented the opinion that a retrograde movement by the Germans was imminent.

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CRUISER'S SINKING PERHAPS BY U-BOAT; NAVY WARNS SHIPS

The United States armored cruiser San Diego was sunk yesterday at 11:30 a. m. ten miles off Fire Island, at the entrance to New York Harbor. Apparently there was no loss of life.

She is believed to have been torpedoed by a German submarine.

The Navy department is understood to have sent out a warning last night to shipping to watch out for possible submarines operating along the American coast.

Vessels of the coast patrol, as an extra precaution, have also been warned to be on their guard.

Admiral Benson, chief of naval operations, is understood to be of the opinion that the San Diego struck a mine—either an American mine, or one sown by the German submarines operating off the American coast more than a month ago.

HOOVER NOW IN ENGLAND; WILL CONFER

Food Administrator to Join
with Representatives of
Allies for Pooling.

London, July 19.—Herbert C. Hoover, American Food Controller, arrived today at a port from America.

Announcement from London of the arrival in England of Herbert Hoover, United States Food Administrator, brings nearer the inauguration of a new food conservation program for all allied countries.

Hoover will meet the food administrators of the allied nations at a round table in Europe, where each will lay down the requirements of his country in food for the coming year, and the estimates of what his country can produce.

At this table the entire resources of the allies will be pooled and the deficits in every food stuff shown by the European nations will be assumed by the United States. If its surplus be not great enough to meet these requirements, then the total available supply together with substitutes, will be prorated.

Common Program.

When the conference completed the allied world will be upon a common food program so far as is possible. It is hardly possible that the American food ration will go as low as the French and Italian, because of the more urgent demand for ships to transport troops and troop supplies to Europe, and the inability to furnish the surplus ships to carry the food rations, but so far as America can she will place herself to build up her allies' rations to the point of her own adequate food supplies.

When the supplies of the allies are pooled and the distribution is complete, a great surprise may break upon the world.

America cut its consumption of meat in half, sending to the allies last year 1,600,000 pounds, and greatly increasing the amount this year. In addition it has built up a great supply of pork and pork products in reserve, and Hoover will preach the sermon of the need to eat less pork.

It has doubled its production of corn products and increased its production of oatmeal and rolled oats from 277,651,620 pounds in 1911 to 747,822,500 pounds in 1917. And the production for the first three months in 1918 amounted to the enormous total of 608,914,880 pounds.

The new wheat crop is already moving into the market. Though the country was at its lowest ebb on wheat the first of the month, with a total supply of only 20,000,000 bushels on hand, the movement of the new crop three weeks early avoided any danger of panic.

But the lifting of the wheat and feed restrictions will not come until Mr. Hoover completes his food conference.

TWO BOATS' CREWS LANDED; OTHERS THOUGHT TO BE SAFE

One officer and two boats' crews have been landed at a life saving station on Long Island.

Other survivors were in boats, and four steamers were standing by.

The San Diego was an armored cruiser of 13,680 tons and carried a complement of 1,114 officers and men.

The following official announcement was issued just before 6 o'clock last night by the Navy Department:

"The armored cruiser San Diego was sunk ten miles southeast of Fire Island at 11:30 o'clock this morning.

"One officer and two boat crews were landed at Life Saving Station No. 82 on Long Island. Other survivors are in boats, and four steamers are standing by.

"So far as can be ascertained, there has been no loss of life.

"The cause of the sinking has not yet been ascertained."

DISPLACED 13,600 TONS.

"The San Diego is an armored cruiser of 13,600 tons displacement and carried a complement of 1,114 officers and men."

Officers at the Navy Department have not agreed on any theory as to how the vessel was sent to the bottom. The first thought in the minds of many officials is that enemy submarines have returned to this side of the Atlantic and found in the San Diego their first victim. There is nothing to confirm this theory.

Other theories advanced are that the vessel struck a floating mine; that there was an internal explosion, or that she was part of a convoy and collided with another ship. The apparent absence of any loss of life argues against the explosion theory.

CANNONADING OFF FIRE ISLAND.

Sayville, Long Island, July 19.—Renewed cannonading of large and small guns began about 8 o'clock this evening off the beach, about ten miles east of Fire Island.

DETONATIONS TO SEAWARD.

Babylon, N. Y., July 19.—Several detonations were heard here from seaward shortly before noon today, which gave rise to a report of a naval engagement.

Efforts to connect by telephone with Fire Island were met with the statement that the Federal government had taken charge of all wires leading from the island and that they were being used exclusively for official business.

Was in Mexican Trouble.

The San Diego went to her death sixteen years after her keel was laid. Formerly named the California, her keel was laid in 1902. She was of 12,500 tons displacement. Her engine developed 20,638 horsepower, giving her a speed of 22.30 knots per hour.

Cost of constructing the cruiser was \$3,341,754. Her main battery consisted of four 8-inch guns and fourteen 6-inch guns. Her secondary battery consisted of 12 3-inch guns.

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